dropping a corrective ink to an upper surface of the circular correcting region by an ink jet unit after the circular correcting region has been removed, and hardening and shrinking the corrective ink by an ink hardener thereafter, wherein the relative position of the laser irradiation unit and the ink jet unit is variable.

C1 cont.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application of which claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-4 are allowed.

A notice of appeal is being filed concurrently to keep the application pending while the Examiner considers this amendment.

In the Office Action dated July 27, 2001, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shiba et al, U.S. Patent 5,714,195 in view of Saruta et al (U.S. 6,035,526). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 as amended recites that the laser is from a laser irradiation unit and that the ink is applied by an ink jet unit and that the relative position of the laser irradiation unit and the ink jet unit is variable.

In the apparatus according to the invention, the relative position of the laser irradiation unit 12 and the ink jet unit 22 are variable. Information of the defect extracted at the image processing unit is sent to the arithmetic unit 11. Then, a judgment as to whether correction should be made or not because

of the size of the defect, as well as the position information, are transmitted to the driving mechanism 18 and the driving circuit 23, which serve as the means to drive the laser irradiation unit and the ink jet unit. The laser irradiation unit and the ink jet unit are operated for spot processing, and position accuracy is required for the operation. Therefore, when these two mechanisms are operated relatively to each other, different processes can be simultaneously performed (parallel processing) and this provides the effect of improving the throughput.

On the other hand, according to the teachings of Saruta et al, defect processing is performed with the use of a needle. However, Saruta et al do not disclose the feature that the cylinder 215 held by the YAG laser unit 211 and the needle 214 is independently and separately operated with respect to the s-y plane.

Therefore, these features of the present invention as claimed in claim 1 are neither taught or suggested by Shiba et al. and Saruta et al, whether considered alone or combined.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicants' attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Walters, Reg. No. 35,731

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DELLETT AND WALTERS
Suite 1101
310 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204 US
(503) 224-0115
DOCKET: A-366

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MARKUP SHEET SHOWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN

1. (Twice Amended) A method for correcting defects on a color filter, comprising the steps of setting a diameter of a laser beam of a laser irradiation unit on a circular correcting region including a defective portion when the defective portion of a color filter is removed by irradiation of the laser beam, dropping a corrective ink to an upper surface of the circular correcting region by [a needle painting method] an ink jet unit after the circular correcting region has been removed, [wherein the corrective ink is a thermosetting or a UV-curing ink,] and hardening and shrinking the corrective ink by an ink hardener thereafter, wherein the relative position of the laser irradiation unit and the ink jet unit is variable.